

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 23 — The Burden Against Tyre

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 23 turns to one of the most famous commercial cities of the ancient world:

Tyre.

Tyre was known for:

Trade.

Shipping.

Merchants.

Ports.

Wealth.

Influence.

International connections.

Its ships traveled widely.

Its traders were honored.

Its merchants became like princes.

Its economic reach touched nations far beyond its own coast.

But Isaiah announces:

Tyre will fall.

Its harbor will be lost.

Its ships will mourn.

Its trade network will be shaken.

Its proud influence will be humbled.

The chapter therefore speaks directly to the danger of placing confidence in:

Commerce.

Markets.

Trade.

Wealth.

Reputation.

Economic power.

Tyre had become:

A marketplace of nations.

But the Lord shows that no marketplace is greater than:

The Maker of nations.

One of the chapter's most important questions appears in verse 8:

“Who planned this against Tyre?”

The answer comes immediately:

“The Lord Almighty planned it.”

Why?

“To bring down her pride and to humble all who were honored on the earth.”

The issue is not commerce itself.

Trade is not condemned merely because it produces prosperity.

The deeper problem is:

Pride.

Self-glory.

Confidence in wealth.

Tyre's economic influence had become part of its arrogance.

Yet Isaiah 23 does not end with permanent destruction.

Tyre is forgotten for:

Seventy years.

Then trade returns.

But the final verse introduces a remarkable transformation.

Her profits are no longer merely:

Hoarded.

Stored.

Used for self-glory.

Instead:

They are set apart for the Lord.

This creates a powerful movement through the chapter:

Wealth.

Pride.

Judgment.

Silence.

Restoration.

Consecration.

The central truth of Isaiah 23 is:

God humbles Tyre's pride, exposes the weakness of economic power, controls the rise and fall of commercial kingdoms, limits judgment according to His purpose, and can even reclaim material wealth so that what was once used for selfish glory becomes devoted to Him.

I. THE SHIPS OF TARSHISH ARE TOLD TO WAIL

Isaiah 23:1 — Tyre Loses House and Harbor

“This is the burden concerning Tyre: Wail, you ships of Tarshish, for Tyre is destroyed and left without house or harbor. From the land of Cyprus news has reached them.”

The first response to Tyre's fall is:

Wailing.

Why?

Because Tyre was central to:

Trade.

Shipping.

Harbor commerce.

The destruction affects:

Merchants.

Ships.

Foreign ports.

International business.

Cross References

Ezekiel 27:25

Ships from Tarshish carried Tyre's merchandise, helping make the city wealthy and commercially influential across the seas.

Ezekiel 26:15

Coastal lands tremble when they hear the sound of Tyre's fall and the cries coming from its destruction.

Genesis 10:4

Tarshish is listed among the descendants associated with maritime peoples, providing an ancient connection with seafaring regions.

Spiritual Principle

Economic collapse rarely affects only one city.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When one major center falls, people far away can feel the consequences.

II. SIDON'S MERCHANTS ARE SILENCED

Isaiah 23:2 — Wealth from the Sea

“Be silent, you people of the coast, you merchants of Sidon, whose seafarers filled you with wealth.”

Sidon and Tyre were closely connected.

Their prosperity came through:

Seafarers.

Merchants.

Trade routes.

The sea brought:

Goods.

Revenue.

Influence.

Now:

Silence.

Cross References

Ezekiel 28:21

The Lord directs prophetic judgment toward Sidon and announces that He will reveal His holiness through what happens there.

Joel 3:4

Tyre and Sidon are challenged concerning their treatment of God's people and warned that their actions will bring consequences.

Ezekiel 27:8

Skilled sailors from Sidon and nearby coastal regions served aboard Tyre's ships and helped sustain its maritime strength.

Spiritual Principle

Prosperity can disappear even where the economic system once seemed deeply established.

III. TYRE WAS THE MARKETPLACE OF NATIONS

Isaiah 23:3 — Wealth from the Nile

“On the great waters came the grain of Shihor; the harvest of the Nile was her revenue. She was the marketplace of nations.”

This verse shows Tyre's reach.

Egypt produced:

Grain.

Harvest.

Agricultural wealth.

Tyre transported and traded it.

Tyre profited from:

Other lands.

Other harvests.

Other economies.

It became:

A marketplace of nations.

Cross References

Ezekiel 27:3

Tyre is described as a major center of maritime trade, positioned at the entrance of the sea and trading with many peoples.

Jeremiah 2:18

God challenges His people for seeking help from foreign powers associated with Egyptian and other river systems rather than trusting Him.

Ezekiel 27:33

Tyre's merchandise supplied many nations, and its wealth enriched kings across the earth.

Spiritual Principle

Commercial importance does not create spiritual permanence.

Key Truth

Being necessary to the market does not make a city necessary to God.

IV. SIDON IS ASHAMED

Isaiah 23:4 — The Sea Stronghold Loses Its Children

“Be ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea has spoken—the stronghold of the sea has said: ‘I have neither labored nor given birth; I have raised no sons nor brought up daughters.’”

The imagery describes:

Loss.

Emptiness.

Depopulation.

The once productive sea city speaks as though:

Its children are gone.

Its future has disappeared.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:19

Tyre is compared to a city overwhelmed by deep waters and brought down into desolation.

Isaiah 54:1

Isaiah elsewhere uses the image of a barren woman who later experiences surprising restoration and fruitfulness.

Jeremiah 47:4

Philistine and coastal powers such as Tyre and Sidon are shown unable to rescue one another when judgment comes.

Spiritual Principle

A city may possess wealth while still losing the very people who gave it life.

V. EGYPT TREMBLES AT TYRE’S FALL

Isaiah 23:5 — The News Spreads

“When the news comes to Egypt, they will be in anguish at the report about Tyre.”

Egypt is affected emotionally and economically.

Tyre’s fall means:

Trade disruption.

Regional instability.

Loss of commerce.

The event is too large to remain local.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:15

The coastlands tremble when Tyre falls because surrounding peoples recognize the seriousness of the disaster.

Ezekiel 26:16

Rulers of the sea step down in grief, remove their royal garments, and sit trembling because of Tyre's collapse.

Ezekiel 32:10

Nations and kings are astonished and afraid when they witness the sudden fall of a major power.

Spiritual Principle

The collapse of a great economy creates fear in economies connected to it.

VI. THE PEOPLE ARE TOLD TO FLEE

Isaiah 23:6 — Wailing on the Coast

“Cross over to Tarshish; wail, you people of the coast.”

Those connected with Tyre are told to:

Leave.

Mourn.

Seek elsewhere.

The city that once drew traders now sends people away.

Cross References

Ezekiel 27:12

Tarshish traded valuable metals and merchandise with Tyre because of Tyre's extensive commercial system.

Jonah 1:3

Jonah found a ship sailing toward Tarshish, illustrating the reputation of Tarshish as a distant maritime destination.

Ezekiel 27:26

Tyre's ships are pictured driven into danger on the sea until destructive forces overwhelm its commercial strength.

Spiritual Principle

The place that once attracted people through prosperity can become the place they flee from in crisis.

VII. THE OLD CITY OF REVELRY IS BROUGHT LOW

Isaiah 23:7 — Ancient Tyre Humbled

“Is this your city of revelry, the old, old city, whose feet carried her far away to settle in distant lands?”

Tyre was:

Ancient.

Joyful.

Expansive.

Its influence traveled.

Its colonies and commercial reach spread.

Yet Isaiah asks:

Is this really that same city?

The fall makes former glory difficult to recognize.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:17

A lament is raised over Tyre, the renowned city that once exercised great maritime influence but has been brought down.

Joshua 19:29

Tyre appears as an established fortified coastal city in the early territorial descriptions of the land.

Ezekiel 27:3

Tyre boasted of its beauty and commercial greatness as a city occupying a powerful maritime position.

Spiritual Principle

Longevity does not guarantee permanence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Being old enough to have survived many crises does not mean you will survive every crisis.

VIII. WHO PLANNED TYRE'S FALL?

Isaiah 23:8 — Merchants Like Princes

“Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were honored in the earth?”

Tyre's merchants had extraordinary status.

Commerce brought:

Prestige.

Political influence.

Honor.

Economic elites became like:

Princes.

The question is:

Who could bring down such a city?

Cross References

Ezekiel 28:2

The ruler of Tyre became proud because of wealth and power, thinking of himself in terms far greater than a mortal ruler should.

Revelation 18:11

Merchants mourn the fall of symbolic Babylon because the collapse of the great commercial system destroys their market.

Ezekiel 27:21

Tyre traded with Arabian regions, including Kedar, showing the vast reach of its international commerce.

Spiritual Principle

Economic influence can create a sense of invincibility.

IX. THE LORD PLANNED TYRE'S HUMILIATION

Isaiah 23:9 — Pride Brought Down

“The Lord Almighty planned it, to bring down her pride and to humble all who were honored on the earth.”

Here is the answer.

Not:

Chance.

Market instability.

Human rivalry alone.

Ultimately:

The Lord.

Why?

Pride.

God opposes:

Self-exaltation.

Arrogance.

Glory that refuses to honor Him.

Cross References

James 4:6

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride prepares the way for destruction, and an arrogant spirit comes before a fall.

Ezekiel 28:17

Tyre's ruler became proud because of beauty and corrupted wisdom because of splendor, leading to humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

Pride can turn blessing into judgment.

Key Truth

God does not oppose wealth merely because it exists.

He opposes the pride that wealth can produce.

X. TARSHISH LOSES ITS HARBOR

Isaiah 23:10 — Commercial Structure Breaks Down

“Till your land overflows like the Nile, O daughter of Tarshish, for you no longer have a harbor.”

A harbor organizes:

Trade.

Movement.

Shipping.

Without it:

Commerce becomes disordered.

The whole structure changes.

Cross References

Amos 8:8

The land is pictured heaving and rising like the Nile under divine judgment.

Judges 5:21

A river becomes part of the imagery of sweeping power and overwhelming movement during battle.

Ezekiel 27:26

Tyre's ships are carried into destructive waters until the force that sustained commerce becomes the setting of disaster.

Spiritual Principle

Systems depend upon key structures that can fail.

XI. GOD STRETCHES HIS HAND OVER THE SEA

Isaiah 23:11 — Kingdoms Tremble

“The Lord has stretched out His hand over the sea and made kingdoms tremble. He has given an order concerning Phoenicia to destroy its strongholds.”

Tyre’s strength was:

Maritime.

God’s authority extends:

Over the sea.

The sea that brought Tyre:

Wealth.

Cannot protect Tyre from:

God.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:3

God declares Himself against Tyre and says many nations will come against it like waves of the sea.

Haggai 2:6

God promises to shake heaven, earth, sea, and dry land according to His sovereign purpose.

Nahum 1:4

The Lord rebukes the sea and dries it, demonstrating His authority over waters and natural strength.

Spiritual Principle

No economic or geographic advantage lies beyond God’s authority.

XII. SIDON FINDS NO REST

Isaiah 23:12 — Flight Does Not Guarantee Safety

“He said, ‘You will no longer rejoice, O oppressed virgin daughter of Sidon. Arise and cross over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest.’”

They may flee.

But:

Rest does not automatically follow relocation.

The problem reaches beyond geography.

Cross References

Ezekiel 28:22

God announces judgment against Sidon so that His holiness will be recognized among those who once resisted Him.

Lamentations 1:3

Judah's exiles are pictured finding no rest among the nations while enemies overtake them in their distress.

Deuteronomy 28:65

God warns that covenant rebellion can result in scattering among nations with no resting place and continual anxiety.

Spiritual Principle

Changing location cannot always change the deeper problem.

XIII. BABYLON ITSELF BECOMES AN EXAMPLE

Isaiah 23:13 — Another Great Power in Ruins

“Look at the land of the Babylonians! This people no longer exists. The Assyrians founded it for desert creatures; they set up siege towers, they stripped its fortresses bare and turned it into ruins.”

Isaiah points to:

Another example.

Cities fall.

Empires change.

Fortresses become:

Ruins.

Tyre should learn:

No greatness is untouchable.

Cross References

Habakkuk 1:6

Babylon is described as a fierce rising power that moves through lands and takes territories.

Jeremiah 51:37

Babylon is foretold to become heaps of ruins and a desolate dwelling place.

Nahum 3:7

A fallen city becomes an object of horror as people distance themselves from its destruction.

Spiritual Principle

History contains warnings for every present power.

XIV. THE SHIPS OF TARSHISH WAIL AGAIN

Isaiah 23:14 — The Fortress Is Destroyed

“Wail, you ships of Tarshish; your fortress is destroyed.”

The section closes as it began.

Ships:

Mourning.

Why?

The commercial center upon which they relied is gone.

Cross References

Ezekiel 27:26

Tyre’s commercial ships are overwhelmed by destructive forces on the sea.

Ezekiel 27:27

Tyre’s wealth, merchants, sailors, military men, and merchandise all fall together when the city’s maritime power collapses.

Revelation 18:17

Merchants and shipmasters mourn because immense commercial wealth disappears in a very short time.

Spiritual Principle

When a system is built around one great center, the fall of that center affects everyone connected to it.

XV. TYRE WILL BE FORGOTTEN FOR SEVENTY YEARS

Isaiah 23:15 — Judgment Has a Measured Period

“In that day Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the span of a king’s life. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the prostitute:”

Tyre’s judgment has:

A duration.

Seventy years.

The city will not dominate commerce as before.

It becomes:

Forgotten.

Cross References

Jeremiah 25:11

Judah and surrounding nations are told they will experience a seventy-year period connected with Babylonian domination.

Jeremiah 29:10

God promises that after the seventy-year period is completed, He will act according to His Word and bring restoration.

2 Chronicles 36:21

The land’s period of desolation is connected with the completion of the seventy years announced by the prophets.

Spiritual Principle

God can place limits upon judgment just as He places limits upon prosperity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The same God who sets the beginning of a season also knows its ending.

XVI. TYRE SEEKS TO BE REMEMBERED

Isaiah 23:16 — The Song of the Forgotten Prostitute

“Take a harp, walk through the city, you forgotten prostitute; play the harp well, sing many songs, so that you will be remembered.”

The picture is symbolic.

Tyre is compared to:

A prostitute seeking customers.

Why?

Because Tyre’s trade relationships are pictured as:

Commercial seduction.

The city seeks renewed attention.

Cross References

Revelation 17:1

Symbolic Babylon is portrayed as a prostitute whose corrupt influence extends over peoples and kingdoms.

Nahum 3:4

A wicked city is compared to an alluring prostitute who deceives nations through corruption and manipulation.

Ezekiel 16:15

Jerusalem is rebuked for misusing God-given beauty and turning spiritual privilege into unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

People and systems can become desperate to recover lost influence.

XVII. TYRE RETURNS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Isaiah 23:17 — Commerce Returns

“At the end of seventy years, the Lord will deal with Tyre. She will return to her trade and prostitute herself with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.”

Tyre’s commercial life returns.

Again it trades widely.

But Isaiah still describes the activity with morally charged imagery.

The problem remains:

Commerce without consecration.

Cross References

Revelation 17:2

Earthly rulers become entangled with the corrupt world system portrayed as an immoral woman.

Ezekiel 16:26

Jerusalem is accused of seeking corrupt relationships with powerful neighbors rather than remaining faithful to God.

Nahum 3:4

A city’s seductive political and economic influence is described as corrupting nations.

Spiritual Principle

Restored opportunity is not automatically spiritual restoration.

Key Truth

You can recover success without recovering holiness.

XVIII. TYRE’S PROFITS WILL BE SET APART FOR THE LORD

Isaiah 23:18 — Wealth Consecrated to God

“Yet her profits and her earnings will be set apart for the Lord. They will not be stored or hoarded. Her profits will go to those who live before the Lord, for abundant food and fine clothing.”

This is the surprising ending.

Tyre’s wealth was once:

A source of pride.

Self-glory.

Economic domination.

Now:

It is consecrated.

The money itself is not inherently evil.

Its purpose changes.

Instead of:

Hoarding.

Self-exaltation.

It becomes:

Provision.

Service.

Dedication to God.

Cross References

Micah 4:13

The wealth and gain of conquered nations are ultimately devoted to the Lord of all the earth.

Revelation 21:24

The nations bring their glory into the holy city, showing earthly honor redirected toward God’s kingdom.

Zechariah 14:20

Ordinary things become marked as holy to the Lord, showing the comprehensive consecration of life under God's rule.

Spiritual Principle

God can redeem resources previously used for selfish purposes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The answer to corrupt wealth is not merely less wealth.

It is wealth brought under the lordship of God.

XIX. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 23

1. Wealth Cannot Prevent Judgment

Tyre was enormously wealthy.

Still:

It fell.

Principle:

Money is powerful, but it is not sovereign.

2. Pride Corrupts Prosperity

Tyre's economic success produced arrogance.

Principle:

Blessing becomes spiritually dangerous when gratitude becomes pride.

3. Economic Power Is Temporary

Tyre was:

The marketplace of nations.

Then:

Silent.

Principle:

Markets rise and fall beneath God's providence.

4. God Rules the Seas and Trade Routes

Tyre's maritime strength could not escape His hand.

Principle:

No commercial network operates outside God's authority.

5. Judgment Has an Appointed Limit

Tyre is forgotten:

Seventy years.

Principle:

God controls both the severity and duration of a season.

6. Restoration Does Not Automatically Equal Repentance

Tyre returns to trade.

But the imagery remains morally troubling.

Principle:

Recovered prosperity is not proof of recovered spirituality.

7. God Can Redeem Material Resources

Tyre's profits become devoted to Him.

Principle:

What once served pride can be redirected toward worship and provision.

8. All Wealth Ultimately Belongs to God

Tyre's earnings are no longer merely hoarded.

Principle:

Resources find their highest purpose when placed under God's authority.

XX. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT WEALTH

Tyre possessed:

Revenue.

Markets.

Ships.

Merchants.

Trade routes.

Yet all these were:

Temporary.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Wealth is a tool.

It becomes dangerous when treated as identity, security, or god.

XXI. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

Verse 9 gives God's purpose clearly:

"To bring down her pride."

Tyre's problem was deeper than:

Business.

It was:

Arrogance.

Spiritual Principle

Prosperity tests humility.

XXII. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT BUSINESS

Business itself is not condemned.

The chapter criticizes:

Pride.

Corruption.

Self-glory.

Misuse of wealth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Commerce can serve people or consume people depending on the heart governing it.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Tyre functioned as:

A regional commercial hub.

Many nations depended upon:

Its port.

Its ships.

Its merchants.

Its markets.

Spiritual Principle

Interconnected economies create interconnected consequences.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

The question:

“Who planned this?”

The answer:

“The Lord Almighty.”

Key Truth

God is not merely Lord of temples.

He is Lord of:

Ports.

Markets.

Ships.

Money.

Nations.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

Judgment reaches:

Tyre.

Sidon.

Merchants.

Ships.

Trade partners.

The entire system feels it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride may be concentrated at the top, but its collapse can affect everyone below.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

Tyre does not disappear permanently.

Trade returns.

Spiritual Principle

God can allow restoration even after severe judgment.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 23 TEACHES ABOUT CONSECRATION

The final verse changes the purpose of wealth.

Profits become:

Holy.

Dedicated.

Useful for God's purposes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical stewardship asks not only:

"How much do I have?"

But:

"Whose is it, and what is it for?"

XXVIII. THE MARKETPLACE OF NATIONS

Tyre had become indispensable in human eyes.

But God shows:

No economic center is indispensable to Him.

Spiritual Principle

The world may call something "too big to fail."

God never does.

XXIX. MERCHANTS WHO WERE PRINCES

Tyre gave merchants:

Prestige.

Social power.

Influence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Success can quietly change from something you possess into something that possesses you.

XXX. THE LORD STRETCHES HIS HAND OVER THE SEA

The sea represented:

Tyre's strength.

God stretches His hand over:

That very strength.

Spiritual Principle

God often exposes false security by touching the exact thing people trust most.

XXXI. NO REST IN CYPRUS

Escape does not create:

Peace.

The fugitives travel.

Still:

No rest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Geographic change cannot guarantee spiritual rest.

XXXII. THE SHIPS WAIL

The ships are personified because:

Commerce itself seems to grieve.

Spiritual Principle

Economic collapse can silence even the busiest systems.

XXXIII. SEVENTY YEARS OF FORGETFULNESS

Imagine Tyre:

Once famous.

Then forgotten.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fame has a short memory.

God does not.

XXXIV. THE DESIRE TO BE REMEMBERED

The song of the prostitute represents:

A desperate effort to regain attention.

Spiritual Principle

When identity is built upon popularity, being forgotten feels like death.

XXXV. RESTORED BUT NOT YET TRANSFORMED

Tyre returns to commerce.

But renewed success alone does not guarantee:

Holiness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A restored bank account does not necessarily mean a restored heart.

XXXVI. PROFITS SET APART FOR THE LORD

The ending gives hope.

Resources once associated with:

Pride.

Can become:

Consecrated.

Spiritual Principle

God can change not only what we possess but why we possess it.

XXXVII. FROM HOARDING TO PROVIDING

Verse 18 says the profits will not simply be:

Stored.

Hoarded.

Instead:

They provide.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God gives resources not merely for accumulation but also for service.

XXXVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What city is the focus of Isaiah 23?

Tyre.

Question 2

Why do the ships of Tarshish wail?

Because Tyre's harbor and commercial strength are destroyed.

Question 3

What made Tyre wealthy?

International shipping, seafaring, trade, and the exchange of goods from many nations.

Question 4

How important was Tyre economically?

Isaiah calls it:

“The marketplace of nations.”

Question 5

How does Egypt respond to Tyre's fall?

With anguish.

Question 6

How old and established was Tyre?

It was already known as an ancient and influential city.

Question 7

What question does Isaiah ask about Tyre's downfall?

“Who planned this against Tyre?”

Question 8

What is the answer?

The Lord Almighty planned it.

Question 9

Why does God humble Tyre?

To bring down its pride and humble its earthly glory.

Question 10

Can Tyre's maritime power protect it?

No.

The Lord stretches His hand over the sea.

Question 11

How long is Tyre forgotten?

Seventy years.

Question 12

What happens afterward?

Tyre returns to international trade.

Question 13

Does renewed commerce automatically mean spiritual purity?

No.

Isaiah still uses the image of prostitution to describe corrupt commercial relationships.

Question 14

What eventually happens to Tyre's profits?

They are set apart for the Lord.

Question 15

What does that teach about wealth?

Resources can be redirected from selfish accumulation toward God's purposes.

XXXIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 23 asks several searching questions.

What Gives Me Security?

Money?

Business?

Retirement?

Property?

Investments?

Or:

God?

Has Success Produced Pride?

Have blessings made me:

More thankful?

Or:

More self-important?

What Happens If My Market Changes?

Would my identity survive financial loss?

Am I Measuring My Worth by Economic Value?

What happens when:

Income changes?

Influence changes?

Recognition changes?

Am I Building a Life Around Being Remembered?

Do I need people to:

Notice?

Admire?

Remember?

Am I Hoarding What God Intended Me to Steward?

Could some of my resources become:

Food?

Clothing?

Ministry?

Mercy?

Service?

Are My Profits Consecrated?

Does God have authority over:

How I earn?

How I spend?

How I save?

How I give?

XL. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Can Take Wealth Off the Throne and Put It on the Altar”

Tyre's wealth begins as:

Pride.

It ends as:

Consecration.

Principle:

Money becomes safest when it stops ruling the heart and starts serving the Lord.

XLI. WHEN THE MARKET BECOMES AN IDOL

Tyre's economy was impressive.

But its success became connected to:

Pride.

Spiritual Principle

An economic system becomes spiritually dangerous when people begin trusting it more than God.

XLII. THE CITY TOO IMPORTANT TO FAIL

Tyre likely appeared:

Essential.

Connected.

Influential.

But:

It fell.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse economic importance with divine necessity.

XLIII. GOD AND THE MERCHANT PRINCES

The merchants were:

Honored.

Powerful.

Influential.

God still humbled them.

Spiritual Principle

Business success does not place anyone beyond spiritual accountability.

XLIV. WHEN THE HARBOR DISAPPEARS

The harbor represented:

Access.

Trade.

Income.

Connection.

Without it:

Everything changes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A blessing can become a point of vulnerability if it becomes the only foundation beneath your life.

XLV. THE SEVENTY-YEAR SILENCE

Tyre's voice fades.

Its influence disappears.

Spiritual Principle

God can teach humility through obscurity.

XLVI. RETURNING TO TRADE

God allows:

Economic return.

This shows:

Judgment is not always the final chapter.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A second opportunity should produce humility, not a return to old pride.

XLVII. THE LORD CLAIMS THE PROFITS

The final verse says:

The wealth belongs to:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Ownership is temporary.

Stewardship is spiritual.

XLVIII. TYRE AND CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Isaiah 23 reminds believers that:

Resources.

Skills.

Business.

Influence.

Can all be:

Consecrated.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely ask for part of our worship.

He claims authority over our economics too.

XLIX. SIX GREAT REVERSALS IN ISAIAH 23

- 1. Bustling Harbor → No Harbor**
- 2. Marketplace of Nations → Silence**
- 3. Merchant Princes → Humiliation**
- 4. Revelry → Wailing**
- 5. Fame → Seventy Years Forgotten**
- 6. Profits for Pride → Profits for the Lord**

Key Truth

God can overturn both the status and purpose of wealth.

L. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 23 speaks directly to:

Wealth.

Business.

Commerce.

Success.

Influence.

Tyre was extraordinarily successful.

Its ships traveled.

Its merchants prospered.

Its markets connected nations.

Its traders were honored.

From a human perspective:

Tyre had everything.

But God saw something deeper:

Pride.

The city's blessings had become part of its arrogance.

That is the danger of prosperity.

Money can begin as:

Provision.

Then become:

Security.

Then:

Identity.

Then:

Pride.

Then:

A god.

Isaiah asks:

“Who planned this against Tyre?”

The answer is:

“The Lord Almighty.”

Why?

To humble pride.

That means God cares not only about whether we have wealth.

He cares about:

What wealth is doing to us.

Are we:

Thankful?

Generous?

Humble?

Faithful?

Or:

Arrogant?

Greedy?

Self-sufficient?

Tyre also reminds us that economic systems are fragile.

Ships.

Harbors.

Trade routes.

Markets.

Profits.

All can change.

Therefore:

Work hard.

Build wisely.

Save responsibly.

Conduct business honestly.

But never make the market:

Your god.

Then comes the surprising ending.

Tyre's profits become:

Set apart for the Lord.

That is redemption.

God does not merely destroy the resource.

He changes:

Its purpose.

What once served:

Pride.

Can serve:

God.

What once accumulated:

For self.

Can provide:

For others.

What once glorified:

Tyre.

Can glorify:

The Lord.

That applies personally.

Your:

Money.

Business.

Talents.

Property.

Career.

Influence.

Resources.

Can all become:

Consecrated.

The question is not simply:

“How much do I possess?”

The greater question is:

“How much of what I possess belongs under the authority of God?”

The answer is:

All of it.

So:

Do not boast in wealth.

Do not fear losing status.

Do not build identity on market success.

Do not hoard what God wants you to steward.

Put your resources:

On the altar.

Because Tyre teaches us:
The safest place for wealth is not:
The vault.
It is:
Under the lordship of God.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
You are Lord over:
Nations.
Cities.
Markets.
Ships.
Commerce.
Wealth.
Forgive us when we trust:
Money.
Income.
Business.
Investments.
Possessions.
More than we trust You.
Father, protect us from pride.
When You bless us:
Make us thankful.
When we prosper:
Make us humble.
When we succeed:
Keep us dependent.

Remind us that every good thing comes through Your providence.

Father, if our identity has become tied to:

Success.

Recognition.

Income.

Influence.

Free us from that bondage.

Teach us that our worth rests in You.

Thank You that You can redeem what was once used wrongly.

Take our:

Resources.

Talents.

Possessions.

Opportunities.

Profits.

And use them for:

Your glory.

Your people.

Mercy.

Provision.

Ministry.

Father, teach us not to hoard what You have entrusted to us.

Give us wisdom to:

Save responsibly.

Spend faithfully.

Give generously.

Steward honestly.

And remember:

Everything belongs to You.

May our wealth never become:

Our master.

May it become:

Your servant.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“The Lord Almighty planned it, to bring down her pride and to humble all who were honored on the earth.” — Isaiah 23:9

Central Truth

God humbles Tyre's proud dependence upon wealth and international commerce, demonstrates His authority over markets, seas, cities, and kingdoms, limits judgment according to His purpose, and ultimately shows that even material profits can be redeemed and set apart for the service of the Lord.

Isaiah 23 in One Sentence

Isaiah announces the downfall of wealthy Tyre, mourned by ships and merchants across the nations, explains that the Lord planned its humiliation because of pride, declares a seventy-year period of obscurity, and ends with the remarkable promise that Tyre's restored profits will ultimately be set apart for the Lord rather than hoarded for selfish gain.